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A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 5

October - November, 1998

Getting Our Finances In Order

s of July 30, 1998, Region One has been rated number one in the Forest Service in meeting financial health performance standards, accord ing to Harlan Smid, regional director of Financial Resources.

Every year, the Washington Office looks at certain critical elements in how each region manages its accounting processes. It is a way the WO tracks the financial health of a region without the expense and time of conducting annual audits. Region One has consistently ranked near or at the top since 1994.

"We've come a long way since the Forest Service received its adverse audit opinion in 1994 from the Office of the Inspector General," Smid remarked. An adverse opinion, which is defined as having pervasive errors and misleading information in its accounting procedures and reports, had a severe impact on the agency. "It affected the way Congress and the public viewed the credibility of the Forest Service," stated regional analysis Steve Gradhandt. This lack of trust had widespread repercussions, which included affecting the annual appropriation of operating funds.

"Since 1994, Region One employees have made consistent progress in improving their accounting data," Smid related. "It's the forest and regional office team effort that made the difference. The forest and regional office finance and budget staffs did a lot of good work and our rating put us at the front of the pack."

The next hurdle the region and the Forest Service faces is to fit the mountain of data the agency collects into a new accounting system, called FFIS (Foundation Finance Information System) and have it comply with the new accounting standards. It is planned to go into operation October 1, 1999. As Gradhandt explained, "The Forest Service is not a single mission agency. We do lots of things that generate a tremendous amount of data in the accounting system. And that's the challenge for the new system."

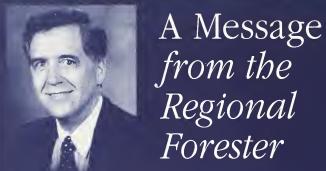
Regions 10, 6, and the Pacific Northwest Research Station are pilot testing FFIS. "Once it's in working order, it will go a long way in providing the Forest Service with the internal control and systematic documentation requirements the OIG states we lack," Gradhandt stated.



"Forest Service field units bave made considerable progress improving the quality of accounting data and validating account balances. The work efforts and progress we observed demonstrated a renewed commitment to financial accountability."

from the OIG's cover letter to its May 1998 progress report





Dale Bosworth

hen I first came to the Region, members of the Regional Leadership Team told me that off-highway vehicle use (OHV) would become the number one issue facing District Rangers and other agency personnel. The issue is bearing down on us, and we're trying to make sure we're ahead of it rather than chasing it.

The time is right to have discussion and provide leadership on the issue

because of the growing popularity of OHV's and the concern expressed by the public of their impact on the land. We also are aware of inconsistent policies among agencies that confuse the issue for all public land users.

We need to remind ourselves that offroad vehicle use is a legitimate recreational activity on public lands in some areas. If we convey a bias against OHV users, we compromise our ability to work with this group of recreation enthusiasts. We want their support to find places where OHV's will be compatible with other uses and other resource values.

Obviously we don't want an adversarial relationship with any of our forest users. We want to build consensus that some areas and trails are appropriate for OH use, while others are not. Some OH uses, such as hill climbing and competitions, cause resource damage that may never be appropriate on our National Forests. We must always be concerned about actions that may scar the land and impede our ability to sustain the landscape.

We're not looking for a "one size fits all" alternative because appropriate solutions will vary from area to area. Currently we are working with the BLM in Montana to come up with a consistent approach. We'll be talking with Region 4 to accomplish that same objective in Idaho. Our goal is to arrive at an overall regional approach that will clarify for our line officers, other employees, and the public where we stand on the issue.

Pandolfi Gets Hands-on View of R-1

by Kim Flansburg, tour guide Smokejumper Visitor Center

rancis Pandolfi, chief operat ing officer for Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, visited and toured the Aerial Fire Depot, Pattee Canyon on the Lolo National Forest, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness with Northern Region staff, July 10-13. Pandolfi's visit was unique in that he not only witnessed wildland management, but he experienced it firsthand. His understanding of the work carried out in these locations is important given his role in policy making and budgeting.

Pandolfi's first stop in R-1 was at the Aerial Fire Depot (AFD) and Pattee Canyon. At the AFD, he was presented with an overview of the AFD's Interagency Fire Mission. With Jane Haker, AFD administrative officer, and Tim Eldridge, Smokejumper Visitor Center manager, as his guides, Pandolfi was shown through the entire facility. At the end of the tour, Pandolfi also observed a practice jump.

After visiting the AFD, Pandolfi was shown the Lolo National Forest's Pattee Canyon where Missoula District Ranger Dave Stack discussed the problems of the urban/wildland interface.

The remainder of his trip, July 11-13, was spent in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Pandolfi toured with Seeley Lake District Ranger Tim Love, Lolo National Forest Supervisor Chuck Wildes, R-1 Financial Resources Director Harlan Smid, and forestry technician Jim Blackburn who guided him on horseback throughout his stay there. It was an opportunity for Pandolfi to learn firsthand about fire management, with Canyon Creek Fire as his backdrop; and trail maintenance, with the hands on experience of cross-cut sawing and clearing trail for a day.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness trip also included discussions on weed infestation and sightseeing in areas such as the Northfork Falls and Falls Point Lookout. In commenting on the trip, Tim Love said, "It was a great and unique opportunity for the district to have the chief operating of-



Francis Pandolfi views the DC-3, one of the Missoula Smokejumper's two jump ships, as part of his AFD tour. Photograph by Tim Eldridge

ficer of the Forest Service visit. However, it was equally beneficial for Francis to be in a wilderness environment discussing wilderness issues. It was educational and valuable on a personal level for Francis and the district."

Echinacea

Treasure of the Prairies

by Scott Studiner, rangeland management specialist Ashland Ranger District, Custer National Forest

n the rolling upland prairies of the Great Plains and foothills, a perennial purple wildflower known as Echinacea adorns the landscape. Echinacea augustifolia, also known as black sampson and purple coneflower, has recently become a source of high interest for its prized medicinal qualities.

This colorful flower has a long history of use by man. Native Americans used the roots for a variety of purposes. They chewed root stalks to relieve toothache pain. Some reports say that Echinacea was the most prescribed medicine in America until the 1920s, when physicians and patients began relying on synthetically-derived medicines.

With the recent interest in natural remedy treatments, Echinacea is once again back in the limelight. It is reported as the best-selling herbal remedy in the U.S., with annual sales of almost \$80 million. The result is that commercial collectors have brought intense pressure on the Great Plains to fill the demand.

Already in North Dakota, the Fort Berthold Tribal Council has passed a resolution banning the harvest of the plant within reservation boundaries due to past intense harvest and overcollecting. With the going price at \$24 per pound for dried root, many collectors have turned to other lands, such as private and public lands, to meet the demands of out-of-state buyers for this cash crop.

Recently on the Ashland Ranger District, forester Dean Millett and range specialist Scott Studiner helped confiscate approximately 6,300 plants from collectors based out of Texas. The group was caught digging in the upland prairie grasslands for the roots, claiming they were collecting for personal use and didn't need a Forest Products permit. As a result, many



Scott Studiner (left) and Dean Millett (right) with the confiscated 6,300 echinacea plants.

plants were lost and great damage was done to the rangeland from holes left by the digging.

Other collection activity has been reported around the Black Hills, throughout native grasslands in North Dakota, and from BLM and private lands in eastern Montana. In this region, agencies share information based upon their concerns for the future of this plains species. Susan Rinehart, botanist for the Little Missouri National Grasslands, represents the Forest Service in providing information to land managers and field-going specialists in this area.

The current intense collection pressure by the public has called into question the current Forest Service permitting system as it applies to special grassland products such as Echinacea. Agencies are being increasingly requested to establish policies regarding personal use vs. commercial use collection, as well as to address questions on how to sustain plant populations under threat.

New Partnerships for the Northern Region Packtrain

by Mary Lunsford, public affairs officer, Custer National Forest

and a

he Northern Region packtrain was welcomed to North Dakota for its first appearance in the State on Saturday, August 1. Hosted by the Medora Ranger District, they were there to help celebrate the new North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame in Medora, North Dakota. The packtrain, along with Bob Hoverson and Dave York, also performed for the Home on the Range Rodeo on that Sunday. The home is a working ranch for troubled youth outside Medora and the rodeo is one of their main events each year.

On Monday morning, the packtrain was up early heading for Theodore Roosevelt National Park for a work project. For weeks, young men from the Home on the Range had been working to break up 6,100 pounds of concrete that had once served as dish tanks for watering wildlife in wilderness areas. Once the tanks had been chopped into small pieces, they could be loaded into the mules' packs and carried out for disposal.

The Packtrain's objectives include work, education and show; this weekend in North Dakota encompassed all three. Both the park and the home were enthusiastic about the use of the packtrain and hope to get them back for future work projects.

Challenge Cost Share Dollars Help Trap Sediment

by Klaus Leidenfrost, wildlife biologist, Red River/Elk City Ranger Districts, Nez Perce National Forest

he Haysfork Gloryhole is an early 1900's hydraulic mining pit 200 feet deep and approximately 10 acres in size. It is the single largest sediment producer in the 45,000+ acres composing the Newsome Creek drainage and is one of the single largest sediment producers on the Nez Perce National Forest.

Until the late 1980's, all the sediment leaving the gloryhole flowed directly into Newsome Creek. In the mid-1980's, over 20 sediment traps were installed below the gloryhole itself; however, they were all full in less than one year. Then a diversion ditch was installed to divert the runoff into two old mining ponds prior to its entering Newsome Creek. The problem was that 1,000 tons of sediment had to be emptied

every four years at a cost averaging over \$15,000 per cleaning. Even at that, sediment still entered the creek during certain periods of high runoff.

The situation posed a real dilemma for staff at the district, forest and regional levels. The decision was to go with a cost efficient solution that avoided having to empty the old mining ponds every four

years. A large sediment storage basin was constructed to trap 40 to 50-years worth of future sediment runoff. The storage basin has two 48" standpipes which slowly drain the water. The pipes are wrapped with filter cloth so that all but flour-sized particles are filtered out.

The dam for this sediment storage basin is over 400 feet long and 20 feet high at its highest location and cost a little over \$50,000 to construct. Because of the permeability of the material used to construct the dam, a liner was installed over a portion of the dam's inside face. An eight-



Photo of Haysfork Gloryhole site in October of 1997 depicting water starting to fill behind the dam. Photo by: Klaus Leidenfrost

foot high New Zealand type fence over 1,200 feet long encloses the site. Features were added to increase its strength and discourage moose.

It was a good project that should improve the water quality of Newsome Creek dramatically. It was also a good partnership effort. The funding for the construction of the dam, with its liner and fence, was provided by the Forest Service, Bonneville Power Administration and the Nez Perce Tribe. The State of Idaho Job Service also assisted by providing some labor.

Group Assaults Noxious Weeds in Wilderness

Bruce Anderson, resource assistant, Salmon River Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest

he spread of noxious weeds has been identified as the single greatest threat to wilderness ecological integrity within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. During recent public meetings held throughout Idaho, the Forest Service received support from most wilderness users to get on top of the weed problem.

Why does the public care? Because they understand that loss of native vegetation to these invasive plants also affects wildlife habitat, soil stability, rare plants, recreation opportunities, and historic values.

Recognizing the weed problem is bigger than what any one group or agency can handle, representatives of a jet boat

organization known as the Western Whitewater Association (WWA), Idaho County, the Forest Service, and private landowners cooperatively treated noxious weeds within the Salmon Wild & Scenic River corridor. Most of the project centered around treating spotted knapweed on the James Ranch, a private inholding, on the weekend of July 18 and 19. Among the work party was Nez Perce Forest Supervisor Coy Jemmett and other forest staff.

The weather was hot and the country steep. Nonetheless, on the first day, one group used ATV's to treat infestations occuring on flat terrain, while others strapped on 40-pound backpack sprayers, climbed the hills, and sprayed outlying knapweed infestations. Still others assisted the river ranger and her crew in pulling weeds along the river. On Sunday, work on the James Ranch continued

and a second group jetboated upriver 3 miles and pulled 50+ pounds of a nasty invader known as rush skeletonweed.

The landowner, Stan Wolysen, graciously provided his place to cook and camp, and WWA ensured the work party was well fed and had plenty of fluids. They put on a barbecue Saturday evening and a big breakfast Sunday morning.

The project was a success. Virtually all of the knapweed (20+acres) on the James Ranch was treated. A large amount of preflowering rush skeletonweed was pulled as well. Food and conversation was great, and the boat rides to and from the projects were enjoyable. Most importantly, the James Ranch project established a collaborative atmosphere where government and wilderness users can work together to accomplish a common goal and build trust necessary to discuss and reach meaningful resolutions on other issues.

Team USDA Takes the Field

by Scott Bixler, realty specialist

n one of this past summer's soggier days, about 30 employees from the Regional Office, Lolo National Forest, and the Rocky Mountain Research Station took to the field to discuss a variety of accessibility issues facing the National Forest System. The field trip, sponsored by R-1's Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage and Wilderness staff group, visited the Valley of the Moon Riparian Interpretive trail. The trail is located at the bottom of the Rock Creek drainage near Missoula, Montana.

Hosted by the Missoula Ranger District, the trip was planned to give staff a real hands-on understanding of the problems related to trail management. Missoula District Ranger Dave Stack discussed evidence of habitation by American Indians in the area of the trail up to 10,000 years ago. Watchable wildlife coordinator Sue Reel commented on the merits of Rock Creek as one of few streams in Montana lying west of the Continental Divide to carry the coveted class I status, formerly known as "blue ribbon trout stream."

Problems surrounding the trail's accessibility were discussed by forestry technician Gene Thompson, who spoke about the damage to the trail that occurred during the spring runoff of 1996 and 1997, and the district's plans to return the trail to full accessibility status. RO engineering technician Jim Calcaterra gave a short course on the materials available for building accessible trails and the merits of each type. Walking the trail and listening to staff emphasized to visitors this area deserves to be fully accessible so it can be enjoyed by everyone.



by Arlis Waltos, information assistant Dakota Prairie Grasslands

Buckboard used to tour attendees on short tour of the exchange area.

n August 21, a horsedrawn buckboard carried a gathering of people to a site near Kinley Plateau on the Little Missouri National Grassland to commemorate the exchange of Federal and private minerals interests.

Commented Larry Dawson, supervisor of the new Dakota Prairie Grasslands, "The minerals exchange is a positive step toward improving management of these lands. The use of a horsedrawn buckboard instead of motorized vehicles is a sign of our commitment to maintaining environmental integrity in this area. With the consolidation of surface and mineral estates. more cohesive management of all these public lands can be accomplished. Burlington Resources can produce oil more efficiently with fewer environmental impacts from the area they received from the Forest Service, and the Forest Service can more effectively manage the surface resources of the Kinley Plateau and Bullion Butte areas now that the mineral estates in these areas are owned by the United States."

According to Dawson, a benefit of the exchange includes protection of a large area of undeveloped country from future development for both people and a portion of North Dakota's bighorn sheep.

The exchange was the result of an Act of the 105th Congress that directed the consolidation of certain mineral interests through the exchange of Federal and pri-

vate mineral interests to enhance the land management capability of Burlington Resources and the Forest Service.

During the ceremony, recognition was made to those instrumental in facilitating and completing this exchange. Among those receiving awards for their assistance in completion of the minerals exchange, were Senator Byron L. Dorgan, D-ND; Barry Winstead, vice president, Mid-Continent Division, Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company; Kathy McAllister, R-1 deputy regional forester; Doug Burger, district manager, Bureau of Land Management; and Wayde Schafer, Sierra Club representative. Dawson noted, "Without the support and assistance of these individuals and agencies, this exchange would never have become a reality."



Left to right: Kathy McAllister, deputy regional forester, Senator Byron L. Dorgan, D-ND; Barry Winstead, vice presdient Mid-Continent Division, Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Co.

Sourdough Peak Lookout Preserving Our Heritage

by Cindy Schacher, archaeological technician, Nez Perce National Forest

ourdough Peak Lookout, on the Nez Perce National Forest, is one of the last standing log cabin cupola lookouts in the Northwest. Its existence is a reminder of days gone by and the era of the Forest Service when fire detection and prevention was accomplished through the use of lookouts rather than the sophisticated equipment used today. Gazing through the lookout windows, one can experience the solitude and scan the timbered countryside for a "smoke" as lookouts once did.

The survival of Sourdough Peak Lookout is not by chance. During this past summer forest employees, R-1 Historic Preservation Team member Dale Swee and a generous volunteer, Robbin Wilson, worked on restoring this unique structure. This year, badly deteriorated gable logs on the west elevation were replaced. The lookout has been an ongoing project for the forest for the past few seasons. In the last several years the shingle roof and some wall logs were replaced, framing around windows and the cupola painted, the hardwood floors restored, the rock and mortar foundation repaired, and other general

maintenance done. Much of the work was completed during a Passport In Time (PIT) project in 1994.

Built in 1927, the lookout conforms in general to the Forest Service "Nez Perce Log Lookout House" plans of the 1920's. However, the builder apparently modified the number and arrangement of windows to create more visual space—for good reason. The lookout sits at 6,800 feet in elevation between John's Creek and Twenty Mile Creek, with breathtaking views in all directions.

The lookout surveys a landscape that in the late 1800s would have contained nu-



the rock and mortar foundation Replacing the gable logs on Sourdough Peak Lookout.

repaired and other general Photo by: Steve Armstrong, archaeologist, Nez Perce NF

merous gold mines. The prospectors were known as sourdoughs, who no doubt made and consumed their fair share of sourdough. At least, that's what the local folklore says.

The history and significance of Soughdough Peak Lookout is without question and the structure deserves the efforts being placed into its preservation. It has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is also included in the National Historic Lookout Register, administered by the Forest Fire Lookout Association, a national private, non-profit group.

Reunion 2000

Retirees due to gather in Missoula in two years

by Lorin Hearst, Reunion 2000 chairperson

The Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association will be hosting the third national reunion of Forest Service retirees, September 5,6, and 7, in the year 2000 in Missoula. Activities will start with registration on Labor Day, September 4. The opening ceremony and a formal program will begin on September 5, with tours of various facilities and organization in and around Missoula on the 6th. On the 7th will be guided tours to outlying points of interest, followed by a formal banquet.

The reunion is not limited to Forest Service retirees. Forest Service personnel are welcome to register and attend the activities. Make your plans now to join us.

Over 2,700 Unsafe Conditions Fixed!

by Paul Chamberlin, squadleader, Aerial Fire Depot

That's right, we've fixed or eliminated 2,763 common OSHA violations - before OSHA arrives! The R-1 Safety and Health Leadership Team's 2000 Positive Steps Program has been a whopping success — exceeding our goal of 2,000 fixes before the turn of the century.

Employees region-wide reviewed the outstanding slide program prepared by Ken Kaufman of the IPNF, Bruce Crockett from the RO, and Paul Fieldhouse from the AFD, and learned of common unsafe situations. Armed with new knowledge, we've met the challenge to identify and correct common facilities problems and provide ourselves a safer workplace.

Office extension cords, unsafe ladders, flammable liquids, and careless storage are a few of the many violations eliminated. We're motivated because it's the right thing to do, but we also should recognize these violations cost private industry many thousands of dollars in fines. We in government are also subject to OSHA inspections.

What's the next Safety and Health Leadership Team's project? We know correcting conditions in facilities are an important first step, but the real challenge is addressing the human factor—the "why smart people do dumb things" issue. All of us fit in that category at some time or other. Stay tuned.

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Bunkbouse for eight built in the fall of 1930 at Bear Creek Ranger Station. L to r: Kenneth Cochran, Marshall Wood, Sid Poppe (all now deceased). Photo by LeRloy Lewis, Bear Creek District Ranger. 1926-1931.

by Cindy Schacher, archaeological technician Nez Perce National Forest

hearer Guard Station lies hidden in the trees and brush along the Selway River, a silent legacy to the past. Two beautifully constructed log cabins built in 1923 and 1930 are reminders of days gone by and the harsh and unforgiving way of life that still exists in the backcountry. Although rangers no longer make their home in the log buildings, the station does have visitors—

History in the Wilderness

most often recreationists, Forest Service crews, or an occasional black bear.

The location is about 15 miles southeast of Moose Creek Ranger Station in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. It was here that Passport In Time (PIT) volunteers recently assisted Forest Service personnel with minor restoration

work on the cabins. PIT is a national Forest Service program giving volunteers an opportunity to work alongside archaeologists and historians with a variety of projects, including archaeologicial excavations and historic building restorations.

Shearer Guard Station is one of the few remaining historic Forest Service administrative sites in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Phil Shearer originally homesteaded this area on the Selway River near the mouth of Elk Creek in 1920, raising hay and cattle on his 111-acre parcel. Forest Service rangers frequently bought beef cattle from him for use at district stations.

In the 1930's the Forest Service leased a portion of the Shearer homestead, eventually purchasing the property in 1954. In the 1950's, Ranger Jack Parsell used a two-wheeled tractor and cart to move two log buildings from the Bear Creek Ranger Station 1 1/2 miles to the former Shearer homestead to create the Shearer Guard Station. There are marks still visible on the exterior wall logs made by Parsell when he moved the cabins.

Volunteers Robbin Wilson and Michelle Schacher cheerfully helped saw new rough-cut porchboards by hand, hammer nails, paint window sills, and wash and clean the interior of the cabins. All of this in the sweltering heat of the Selway River canyon under the watchful eye of another visiting black bear. They also assisted archaeologists with a heritage resource survey of the immediate area around the cabins. Projects such as this would not be possible without the enthusiastic help of volunteers.

Wilderness Rendezvous a Success

by Steve Morton, RO Wilderness program manager

he Birch Creek Center on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, was the site for the seventh annual Wilderness Rendezvous. From



Tom Elpel, Hollow Top Primitive Center, demonstrating fire building.
Photo by Steve Morton.

August 17-19, about 80 people gathered, representing four Forest Service regions, the BLM, and other agencies.

The theme of the conference, "The Human Dimension of Wilderness," provided an array of distinguished presenters, including Dr. Les Davis of the Museum of the Rockies, and Dr. Joe Tainter, Forest Service chief of archaeological research from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Several forest archaeologists offered the results of their investigations in wilderness, facilitated by regional archaeologist Mike Beckes.

The speakers traced the occupation and use of land, some of which is now Northern Region wilderness, by the earliest migrants and residents of the North American continent. The discussions of human

use, frequent intentional ignitions by American Indians, and the evolving role that Americans have had with wilderness today, provided wonderful philosophical grist.

Doug Peacock, a Vietnam veteran who spent years in the backcountry while restoring meaning to his life, talked about wilderness and his fascination with grizzly bears. Other presentations covered applied topics, such as the state of weed invasions, management-ignited fire, and a mini-Leave-No-Trace seminar organized by Jonathan Klein of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge forest.

Next year's rendezvous will be a joint effort with the Intermountain Region on August 16-18, 1999.

On The Move

New
Supervisor
Named for
Dakota Prairie
Grasslands



Larry Dawson

Larry Dawson, former district ranger for R-1's Medora Ranger District, in North Dakota, was selected as the new grasslands supervisor for the recently established Dakota Prairie Grasslands. His starting date was September 27.

Dawson's office is located in Bismarck, North Dakota and oversees management of three national grasslands in North Dakota— Little Missouri, Sheyenne, and Cedar River—and the Grand River National Grasslands in South Dakota.

Larry, who began his career with the Forest Service in 1978, has held positions as Job Corps Center director in Wisconsin, district ranger in Minnesota, and forester in Montana and Washington. He grew up in Nebraska where his father worked in the livestock industry. It was from his Nebraska roots and his family that he developed a love of the prairie at an early age.

There are many challenges to the job. The most immediate challenge is getting a new office up and running. "This is done so seldom, there isn't much institutional knowledge on how to do it," Dawson said. Custer National Forest Supervisor Nancy Curriden, who has had management responsibility for these national grasslands, has worked with Larry to put together a transition team and schedule. "We hope to have an approved organization by January," Dawson stated, "and a fully staffed and functioning organization by October of next year."

The position is an exciting opportunity for Larry. "There are few times in a person's career the chance to create a new organization from scratch comes around," he noted. But he also considers this a great period in the history of national grasslands and "a growing recognition of the uniqueness and values of the national grasslands."

Swanson Returns to R-1

Cindy Swanson, who worked for the R-1 Regional Office from 1989 to 1992, is returning to R-1 as the new director of Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries & Rare Plants.

With a B.S. in wildlife management and biology, a masters in economics, and a Ph.D. in natural resource economics, Cindy has

worked both as a wildlife biologist and a natural resource economist. Her first job with the Forest Service was as a research wildlife biologist at the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Fort Collins, Colorado, from 1980-87. From 1987-92, she worked at the same location as a research economist. Other positions: natural resource economist in R-1, 1989-92; natural resource economist, Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plant (WFRP) staff, WO, 1992-94; and natural resource economist/budget/information systems, WFRP, WO, 1994 to the present.

Cindy's husband Rick is a fisheries biologist for the Forest Service. They have two children: Patricia, 10 years old, and Curtis, 4. Cindy enjoys gardening and 3-day event horse training.

Hudson New Ranger for Moose Creek

by Laura Smith, information specialist,Nez Perce National Forest



Joe Hudson

Joe Hudson was selected as the district ranger for the Moose Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest. He reported to his new job headquartered at the Fenn Ranger Station September 28.

For the previous six years, Joe served as the recreation/lands staff officer for the Questa Ranger District, Carson National Forest in Questa, New Mexico. From 1988 to 1992, he was the timber management staff officer for the Camino Real Ranger District, Carson National Forest in Penasco, New Mexico. From 1985 to 1988, he was the silviculture staff officer for the Mt. Taylor Ranger District, Cibola National Forest in Grants, New Mexico.

Joe's interests include road trips, camping, skiing, mountain biking, golf, hunting, hiking, floating, riding...anything to do with the outdoors. He also enjoys hammering nails and sawing boards and landscaping around the house. For the past five years Joe has served on the board of directors for the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, a local non-profit group that employs local high risk youth in community service projects.

As for the future, Joe comments, "I'd like to see and do as many things as possible that I have not seen or done yet. Like own a sailboat, own some acreage with horses, helicopter skiing, travel Europe and South America and be a successful, well-respected ranger."

Munther Retires from Ninemile

Greg Munther, district ranger for the Ninemile Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, retired August 29 after over 31 years with the Forest Service. He has a B.S. degree in forestry and a M.S. in fisheries management from the University of Idaho.

Greg began his Forest Service career in Region 4, spending his first day on the job helping pump toilets. It was there he learned the truth about on-the-ground recreation work! He also worked seasonally at the Sawtooth Valley Ranger District, Sawtooth National Forest, and Wisdom Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Permanent positions include: R-4 Timber Inventory Project, completing inventories on the Teton, Bridger, Manti-Lasal and Dixie National Forests; Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, managing interpretative programs (1969-72); Sawtooth National Recreation Area fisheries biologist (1972-76); Lolo, Bitterroot, Helena and Deerlodge National Forests, zone fisheries biologist (1976-88); district ranger at Ninemile (1988-98).

Greg welcomes the opportunity to spend more time with his family. His wife Sherry retired from the Forest Service in 1997. They are joined at home by their daughter Melanie. Greg's older daughter Heidi and her family live in Boise. Greg has scheduled two archery hunting and fishing trips to Alaska this fall, a moose bow hunt in Wyoming, and the family is currently planning a trip to Europe next summer to visit their former exchange students.



Greg Munther

Moving On

Bob Krepps, public affairs officer for the Kootenai National Forest, has decided to retire from the Forest Service— and go to work in November for the Missouri Department of Conservation, as the urban and community forest coordinator. Bob's first job with the Forest Service was in 1967, when he worked for the Helena National Forest as a forestry aide. He finished college at Michigan State University in 1968 and re-

turned to the Helena for a summer before entering the U.S. Army. He then, as Bob put it, had a 13-



month scenic tour of South Vietnam. He returned to the Helena in 1970. Other positions: resource forester, Lolo NF, Plains RD, 1973-85; public affairs officer, Helena NF, 1985-90; public affairs staff, Kootenai NF, 1990-98.

If Bob has time in his pseudo-retirement, he might enjoy pursuing one of his many interests, which he lists as "photography, bird watching, hunting, camping, boating (for fishing only), reading and book collecting, auctions and garage sales (always looking for a good deal), grandkids (watching them grow), and bass fishing."

Bob and his wife Michael will be living and working in Jefferson City, Missouri. They have three daughters: Chelsie (in Bozeman), Tealen (in Rapid City, SD), and Ragan (in Corpus Christi, TX). The decision to retire from the Forest Service has been, in Bob's words, "one of the toughest personal decisions of my career." But the move to Missouri has its compensations: "the ready availability of some of the nation's top bass fishing waters."

The Customer Service Corner



Dave Magers, law enforcement officer for the Priest Lake Ranger District, IPNF, should feel good about the way he does his job. Certainly he earned the gratitude of Lindy Cater, executive director of Girl Scouts Inland Empire Council, for his actions on August 13. In her recent note to Dave she stated:

"I am writing to express my appreciation for the support you provided last night. Six Girl Scouts and two counselors who were on a backpacking trip failed to show up at the designated pick up spot on time. We assumed they had taken a wrong turn on the trail and had decided to camp for the night rather than find their way out in the dark. As it turned out, that is what happened, except that they never realized they were on the wrong trail!

....we called your office and requested assistance in locating the girls. With help from you and the sheriff's office, the girls were found around 11:00 PM, much to our relief, and that of their parents....

Thank you again for taking the time to locate the girls for us."

Flathead's Ed Cumming: Making dreams come true

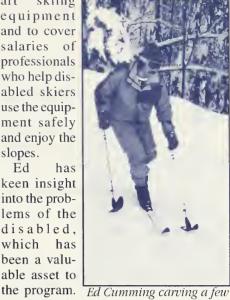
by Allen Rowley, public affairs specialist, Flathead National Forest

Ed Cumming, information assistant for the Hungry Horse & Glacier View Ranger Districts, is leading the DREAM (Disabled Recreation & Environmental Access Movement) disabled ski program to its biggest year ever in '98. Best known for its disabled ski program on The Big Mountain ski area, DREAM is a nonprofit organization focused on improving access to the outdoors for disabled people.

As current president of DREAM, Ed works with a volunteer board of directors on policy matters, day-to-day operations, and fundraising. Ed has a style and way with people to keep members of a volunteer organization motivated. Last winter he lead the most successful fund-raising event ever for the program. Over \$10,000 was raised, money used for state-of-the-

skiing equipment and to cover salaries of professionals who help disabled skiers use the equipment safely and enjoy the slopes.

Ēd has keen insight into the problems of the disabled. which has been a valuable asset to left leg in



He lost his turns on the Big Mountain.

Vietnam in 1969, and has faced what he calls the "inconvenience" of being a disabled skier. He serves as a role model and confidence builder for skiers.

While DREAM is a volunteer effort, Ed's energy and interest to provide access to the outdoors carries over into his job at the district as well. He has helped create several areas on the district reserved for disabled hunters. With each year, Ed's work in DREAM and on the district become more valuable in providing service to national forest users.

Helena National Forest Honored for Work with Small Businesses

by Maggie Pittman, public affairs & administrative officer Helena National Forest

The Helena National Forest was se lected to receive the 1998 Small Business Administration's Agency of the Year award for Montana. This award is presented each year in September during Minority Enterprise Development Week. The Agency of the Year Award is given to the Federal agency that has made the most significant contribution to the support of the minority small business community in Montana.

Laurie Hamers, contracting officer for the Helena, was honored at the SBA awards luncheon in early September. Hamers noted that although the procurements have been accomplished by the contracting officer located on the Helena, credit must also go to the Lewis and Clark and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests as their projects have been a significant contribution. Of the \$985,000 awarded to minority small businesses, approximately \$750,000 went to Beaverhead-Deerlodge projects, \$50,000 to Helena projects, and \$185,000 to Lewis and Clark projects. Hamers said that support of project personnel on the forests is a big factor in the success of this program.

Hamers was nominated by the contractors who worked with her on the projects. Laurie was recognized by the contractors and the SBA for providing a mentoring approach to minority and small businesses in the areas of proposal preparation, contract execution and project management. It is truly a credit to Laurie and her staff to be chosen by the people who work with the Forest Service under contract.

Keep Those Cards and Letters Coming!

by Matt Gordon, RO information clerk

n 1995, the Forest Service initi ated the customer service comment card program. The primary objective was to provide a method to measure customer satisfaction with Forest Service programs as a way to help the agency insure superior customer service to all forest users and visitors.

Over the past three years, the Northern Region has received over 850 completed comment cards. We can be proud of the fact that a large majority of those responses were positive. The Northern Region is committed to providing the highest quality of customer service possible. Written comments from our public help us to remain focused on our mission of "Serving the People," so we urge all employees to continue to distribute the cards.

Here is a sampling of some of the positive public comments from cards received from across Region One:

"Folks who worked at Stevensille went out of their way to help us!! Thanks for having such fine workers who represent the USFS" (Bitterroot NF)

"Resource clerk was very helpful, she provided more helpful and useful information to our hunting party than we thought existed. Whatever you pay her, it's not enough, give that girl a raise!" (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF)

"Our family visited and received the 'red carpet' treatment. We were given accurate, expert advise and felt welcomed!" (Custer NF)

"The ranger went out of his way to locate information and suggest destinations we would enjoy. We had a splendid time there." (Lolo NF)

"Wonderful exhibit (Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center) - I'm proud to live in Great Falls and be a small part of the 'Center." (Lewis & Clark NF)

"McGillivray. We stayed overnight. Beautiful setting and facilities. This by far the nicest campground we've been privileged to use. Your campground hosts are outstanding in work ethic and friendliness." (Kootenai NF)

"It was Sat at 7:00. A ranger in a wheel-chair assisted me. I was thrilled the office was open. He said he was waiting for people to return & decided to keep the visitation office open. Thank you so much!!!" (Gallatin NF)

"Requested National Forest Maps, used my credit card over the phone and received maps promptly, nice job! Thanks alot." (Regional Office)

Helena NF Employee Teacher of the Year

by Dave Turner, forester Helena National Forest

Terry Beaver, a seasonal Forest Service employee since 1959 and a biology teacher at Helena High School for the past 20 years, was selected recently as Montana Teacher of the Year for 1999. Terry began his career with the Forest Service in Region 2 in 1959 as a cartographic aid. After he moved to Region One and the Helena National Forest, he began working in timber inventory and as a forest dispatcher. In 1978 he took a seasonal position on the Helena Ranger District in timber management, where he presently works.

When asked if he intends to retire from teaching soon, Terry responded, "Retire? No, I'm having too much fun to quit now!"



Terry Beaver

As for his Forest Service career, Terry shows no sign of faltering there either. His supervisor at the district, forester Sharon Scoot, states that "Terry's leadership, his sense of humor, and his experience are invaluable to our summer field crews. Our hope is that Terry NEVER quits working for the district."

15-Year Volunteer Honored

by Nora McCloskey-Bauer, campground host coordinator

Kootenai National Forest

Eldora Stobie, Kootenai National Forest volunteer, was honored recently for her dedication and tenure with the Forest Service. For the past 15 years she has volunteered as a campground host on the Cabinet Ranger District, assisting in maintaining not one campground but two—12 miles apart.

Eldora began her volunteer work in 1984 while working with her husband Bert, a 32-year part-time Forest Service employee and school teacher. Until just a few years ago, she hosted both the Bull River and North Shore campgrounds, traveling to each daily



Eldora Stobie.
Photo by Nora McCloskey-Bauer

(numerous trips at times), while keeping a home port in Noxon, Montana. In 1995 a new host was placed at Bull River, allowing Eldora more time to tend to her duties at North Shore, which she carries

out with determination and enthusiasm.

The name Stobie is recognized by locals and forest visitors alike as a great source of information, service, and friendliness. Eldora is very proud of her affiliation with the Forest Service and is an excellent example to all employees. After 15 busy years she can still be found on her days off—camping at North Shore Campground.

CHIEF'S AWARD

n July 1, in Washington, DC, Chief Mike Dombeck presented the Chief's award for Internal Communications. First place in the newsletter category went to our own Northern Region News. Accepting on behalf of the staff (graphic designer Carol Evans, previous editor Jud Moore, retired, and information clerk Matt Gordon), was Gloria Weisgerber, current editor.

In the special projects category, Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) and other R-1 staff re-

ceived the third place award for their "Trails Construction and Maintenance Notebook," published in October 1996. MTDC staff involved in the project include: project leader Brian Vachowski. Sara Lustgraaf, Bert Lindler, Bob Beckley, Ted Cote, Sung Kokko, and Dorothy Dorville. Also participating on the project were former Nez Perce National Forest employee Woody Hesselbarth (now with R-5) and the RO's Bill Antonich (retired).

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

IVERSON. LOREN, Computer Specialist, SO, promotion, WO Forest HealthProtection. Ft. Collins, CO

RUSSELL, LAURIE, Accounting Technician, SO,

SAWYER, SHARON, Procurement Technician, SO, QS1

Reassignments & Transfers

HAGUE, TERESA, Supvervisory Resource Specialist, SO, reassignment, IPNF-SO JOHNSON, DIANE, Civil Engineering Technician, Clearwater NF, reassignment, SO WOODCOCK, KIM, Forestry Technician (Dispatcher), Umpqua NF, reassignment, Jefferson RD

Retirements

CRNICH, TOM, Lead Forestry Technician, Philipsburg RD

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BLAHNIK, BRUCE, forestry technician, Stevensville RD, promotion LEVERTON, JAMES, supervisory forestry technician, Darby RD, promotion WINDHORST, BRUCE, supervisory forestry technician, Stevensville RD, time-limited promotion

New Employees

HORSTMAN, MARY, historian, SO LIEDLE, LIA, cook, Anaconda JCC MORRIS, ERIC, supervisory forestry technician, Darby RD

PIETARINEN, LINDA, botanist, SO STEVENSON, SHAWNA, nurse, Anaconda JCC WALTERS, JOHN, supervisory forestry technician, Stevensville RD

WEAVER, KEVIN, supervisory forestry technician, Darby RD

Reassignments

AHLERS-WILLIAMS, RUSSELL, supervisory forestry technician, Los Padres NF, reassignment, Darby RD

Reinstatements

CURRY, ROBERT, program assistant, SO Resignations

LOKKER, ROBERT, forester, Darby RD

Retirements

JOHNS, WILLIAM, supervisory social services assistant, Anaconda JCC

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BETLATCH, STEVEN, lead law enforcement officer, NW MT Zone, temporary promotion DONNER, BRYAN, planning team leader, Tally Lake RD, promotion

EGUCHI, MARCIA, cartographic tech, SO,

temporary promotion HICKLE, RODNEY, forestry tech, Hungry Horse

RD, promotion HELMRICK, DAVID, law enforcement officer,

NW MT Zone, QSI HODDER-KOSS, BETH, forestry tech, Tally Lake

RD, temporary promotion NEVINS, JOANN, supply tech, SO, promotion SMOLT, KIMBERLY, planning team leader, Tally

Lake RD, temporary promotion STEWART, WILLIAM, lead law enforcement officer, NW MT Zone, performance award Reassignments & Transfers

DEHERRERA, JIMMY, district ranger, Tongass NF, reassigned to Hungry Horse RD

New Employees

BORGEN, DARREN, forestry tech, career conditional appointment, Swan Lake RD CARBONARI, SETH, forestry tech, career conditional appointment, Swan Lake RD GUENZLER, BRENDA, forestry tech, career conditional appointment, Tally Lake RD NICHOLS, BRYAN, forestry tech, career conditional appointment, Spotted Bear RD OLSON, BRENT, forestry tech, career conditional appointment, Hungry Horse RD REUTER, JAMES, forestry tech, career conditional appointment, Hungry Horse RD

VANBROEKE, KEITH, forestry tech, career conditional appointment, Hungry Horse RD Resignation

ZIKA, LEAH, voucher examiner, SO

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST Awards & Promotions

WEINLAND, LOUISE, Budget & Accounting Officer, Bighorn NF, promotion, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

CHANDLER, RITA, Forestry Technician (Dispatcher), Bridger-Teton NF, reassignment,

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

KITTSON, CAROL, personnel officer, SO, Promotion

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST **Awards & Promotions**

DARLING, DIANE, budget analyst, SO, promotion

HERTEL, JACKIE, administration officer, SO, promotion

REGIONAL OFFICE

Awards & Promotions

LAVALLEY, SHANE, contract specialist, P&P, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

BARBOULETOS, CATHY, Forest Supervisor, Flathead NF from R-4, Boise NF



Raymond Algie, 80, died July 17 at his home in Redmond, Oregon. Born in Como, Montana, Algie held many jobs during his working life—as a Seebee from 1943-45, farmer, Forest Service firefighter, heavy equipment operator, and log and chip truck driver—before retiring in 1980.

In 1995, he and his wife moved to Redmond to be near his daughter and her family. Survivors include his wife Vivian and their three children: Donald, David, and Susan.

John Clemens, 78, passed away September 27 of heart and lung disease. Born in Ida Grove, Iowa, John graduated from Iowa Sate University with a degree in forestry. At the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served as a fighter pilot in the Pacific theater for the duration of the war. He received the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon, with one bronze star and the Air Medal. Following the war, he worked briefly for the California Highway Department. He spent the remainder of his career as a cartographer for the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver and then for the Regional Office, engineering unit, of the Forest Service in Missoula. He had 29 years of federal service at the time of his retirement in 1972.

He is survived by his daughters Beverly and

Phillip Doughty died September 18 in Arco, Idaho. He worked for the Forest Service as a fire guard in the Benchmark area of the Lewis and Clark National Forest from 1936-40. After serving in the U.S. Army, Doughty worked again for the Forest Service from 1947-57.

Vic Dupuis, 49, passed away August 5, of cancer. Vic had been a forester with the Lolo National Forest since 1987, although he had worked previously for the Missoula Ranger District as a temporary from 1974-76. He was employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Flathead Agency from 1976-87 and served in the U.S. Navy from 1969-73.

Vic was known as a nurturer to his friends, his wife Wendy and his children, Ana and Luke. As a master gardener, he nurtured the plants in his gardens; as a silviculturist, he nurtured the trees in our forests. He cared for his co-workers and enriched the atmosphere of their workplace with his humor, his sense of balance, and his humanity. Vic was a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe. He genuinely supported cultural diversity and could see each person as a unique individual. Everyone felt welcomed in Vic's world.

We will be forever grateful, richer for knowing him, poorer for being deprived of him, deeply saddened that he is gone. "Our hearts are on the ground." by Marcia Hogan, public affairs officer, Lolo NF



Howard Foulger, 83, died January 13, 1998, in Ogden. He was born in Ogden, graduating from Utah State University in 1939 with a degree in range management. Howard worked 35 years with the Forest Service. His jobs included: staff, Intermountain Forest & Range Experiment Station, Ogden, 1938-42; range man-

ager, Caribou National Forest in Idaho, 1942-44; district ranger, Targhee National Forest, Idaho, 1944-49; Manti-LaSal National Forest, Utah, 1949-57; Intermountain Region, range and wildlife staff, 1957-58; Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, Utah, 1958-62; assistant director of range management, Washington Office, 1962-63; and assistant regional forester in charge of range and wildlife, Northern Region, 1963-72. He retired from R-1 in May 1972.

Survivors include his sons Keith, Brent and David; daughter Elayne Sorensen; brother Orson; and sisters Dorothy Ramsden and Norma Foulger. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Violet.

Donald MacDonald III, 88, passed away August 31 in Missoula. Born in Tacoma, Washington, Donald was raised in Washington and Alaska. He graduated from the University of Alaska as a civil and mining engineer in 1932. After graduation, he worked as a mining engineer and field superintendent for the Fairbanks Exploration Co. Donald served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1942-46. After World War 11, he worked as a city engineer for the City of Fairbanks and as a civil engineer for the Bureau of Public Roads. His Forest Service career began with his move to Missoula and acceptance as a civil engineer for the R-1 regional office in 1960. He retired in 1977.

He is survived by his wife May, daughter Christine Corporon, and sons Donald, Gordon and Douglas.

John Ryan, 67, died at his home September 27. John was born in Missoula and raised in Ovando, Montana. At a young age he worked for the Forest Service, serving on a blister rust crew. At 19, he served in the armed forces in the Korean War. After his discharge, he worked for several lumber companies. He and his family moved to Seeley Lake, Montana, where he worked for Pyramid Mountain Lumber Company. He retired in 1992. Survivors include his wife Alice, daughters Lonie and Shawn, and sons Les and Tim.

INTO THE PAST

Congratulations! Many of you identified the "In the Past" photo in the last edition of the NRN as the mouth of Madison Canyon, Gallatin National Forest. The photo was taken immediately after the 1959 earthquake.

It was during the night of August 17, 1959, 11:37 p.m., when one of the severest earth-quakes recorded on the North American continent shook the West Yellowstone area. Waves surged the seven-mile length of Hebgen Lake and tumbled over the top of Hebgen Dam. This cascade created a wall of water 20 feet high which swept down Madison Canyon, full of campers and vacationers staying in dude ranches and at three Forest Service campgrounds. A total of 28 people were killed.

Meanwhile, half of a high mountain forming the canyon came crashing down into the lower valley. It flowed up the opposite wall, hurling house-size boulders onto the lower portion of Rock Creek Campground. The water flowing over Hebgen Dam was stopped by the slide, forming a new lakebehind the slide called Earthquake or "Quake" Lake.

Some of your comments:

Stuart Hughes, of Missoula, R-1 retiree (1975), was the first to identify the photo: "I worked with the minerals group in the RO and did the geology on the Madison quake." (Forest Service personnel were eager to document the status of the geologic conditions because of concern about the continuing risk of landslides in the area.)

Randy Gay, RO, Missoula: "My aunt and uncle owned motels at Seeley Lake. I worked summers for them. The night of the quake, we had not been in bed too long, when I was awakened by the sliding of closet doors banging together. Then I became aware of the bed shaking. Next I heard my aunt's dog on the front porch howling. I jumped up and turned the lights on; everything was swaying. I opened the front door and the dog scooted in and fled behind the couch. When my aunt came out, we speculated that it had to be an earthquake and somewhere close. Finally we got a report on a radio station that it had happened on the Madison near West Yellowstone. We could not believe that it happened that far away because of the strength of the tremors that we had felt. It is over 200 miles between the quake site and Seeley Lake."

Neil Howarth, Bozeman: "I was District Ranger on the Madison Ranger District at the time, and I believe the first to report what had occurred when I flew over the area right after daylight the morning of August 18th."

Dick Joy, of Grand Junction, CO and R-1 retiree: In 1959, I was Asst. Ranger at the old Squaw Creek R.S. in the lower Gallatin Canyon. Shortly after hitting the sack and dozing off, there was a tremendous sound like a freight train coming closer....About then, the cabin began to shake and shake hard....Spent the better part of two weeks on the quake detail and was one of the recipients of the Unit Award for Superior Service given by the Department to those involved.

Others who correctly made the identification: Dr. Dave Fellin, Intermountain Research Station (retired), Missoula; Lynne Dickman, Bitterroot NF; Norman Smyers, Lolo NF; Marianne Baumberger and Bob Morton, Gallatin NF; Garvin "Fergie" Ferguson, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF; Len Hendzel, Gallatin NF (retired) of La Luz, NM.

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